

REMARKS

In the present application, claims 1-15 and 20-22 are pending. Claims 8-15 were withdrawn from consideration. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Replacement Figure 6 was objected to as having new matter. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the foregoing objection because the subject matter illustrated in the Figure 6 is supported by the originally filed specification. In particular, the originally filed specification recites: During the forming process a bearing 22 is inserted into an area 24 defined by an outer wall 26 of bearing pocket 20. See specification, page 5, lines 1-3. "In another exemplary embodiment, the outer wall comprises a plurality of arcuate portions with gaps disposed therebetween wherein the arcuate portions are each defined by an inner diameter ..." See specification, page 5, 25-27. Thus, the specification provides an explicit teaching of the outer wall having a plurality of arcuate portions with gaps. Referring to Figure 6, the outer wall is shown having four arcuate portions with gaps therebetween. The word "plurality" means two or more. Thus, Figure 6 having an outer wall with four arcuate portions clearly shows a plurality of arcuate portions as supported by the specification. Applicant notes that the Figure 6 could have alternately shown two, three, five, or more arcuate portions and still would have been supported by the specification. Accordingly, because the specification clearly provides support for Figure 6, applicant respectfully submits that the objection to Figure 6 is improper. Thus, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing each feature in the claims. As discussed above, Figure 6 is clearly supported by the specification. Referring to claim 20, the claim recites "plurality of arcuate shaped members." Claim 22 recites "a gap is disposed between each of the plurality of arcuate shaped members." Because each of the foregoing limitations of claims 20 and 22 are

supported by Figure 6 and the originally filed specification, applicant respectfully submits that the objection under 37 CFR 1.83(a) is improper. Thus, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Claims 1-7 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki et al. (U.S. Pub. 2002/0095790). Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1-7 and 20-22 based on Sasaki et al. is improper.

For an obviousness rejection to be proper, the Examiner must meet the burden of establishing that all elements of the invention are disclosed in the prior art; that the prior art relied upon, coupled with knowledge generally available in the art at the time of the invention, must contain some suggestion or incentive that would have motivated the skilled artisan to modify a reference or combined references; and that the proposed modification of the prior art must have had a reasonable expectation of success, determined from the vantage point of the skilled artisan at the time the invention was made. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In Re Wilson*, 165 U.S.P.Q. 494, 496 (C.C.P.A. 1970).

Independent claim 1, recites in part: "wherein the retention feature can withstand a force greater than 6500 Newtons."

Applicant concurs with the Examiner's assertion that: "Sasaki et al. does not disclose the newly added limitation "wherein the retention feature can withstand the force greater than 6500 Newtons..." See Final Office Action, page 5, lines 1-2. Accordingly, because Sasaki et al. does not teach each every limitation of independent claim 1, applicant submits that claim 1 and claims 2-7 which depend from claim 1, are allowable over this reference.

Further, applicant notes that the Sasaki et al. does not provide any support for the Examiner's assertion that would have been obvious to one in the art to modify the size and/or the material from which the retention feature is formed so as to withstand the claimed force. In particular, Sasaki et al. does not even recognize that is would be

advantageous to have a retention feature that can withstand a force greater than 6500 Newtons. Accordingly, because Examiner's assertion is completely unsupported, applicant submits that it is improper.

Independent claim 20 recites in part: "... the bearing pocket having a single shoulder for supporting the bearing and a plurality of arcuate shaped members extending therefrom each of the plurality of arcuate shaped members being defined by an inner diameter wherein said inner diameter corresponds to an outer diameter of the bearing..."

After carefully reviewing Sasaki et al., applicant submits that the reference does not provide any teaching of a bearing pocket having a plurality of arcuate shaped members, as recited in independent claim 20. Accordingly, because Sasaki et al. does not teach each every limitation of independent claim 20, applicant submits that claim 20 and claims 21-22 which depend from claim 20, are allowable over this reference.

Claims 1-7 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brandenstein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,888,862). Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1-7 and 20-22 based on Brandenstein et al. is improper.

Applicant concurs with the Examiner's assertion that: "Brandenstein et al. does not disclose the newly added limitation "wherein the retention feature can withstand the force greater than 6500 Newtons...", as recited in independent claim 1. See Final Office Action, page 6, lines 9-10. Accordingly, because Brandenstein et al. does not teach each every limitation of independent claim 1, applicant submits that claim 1 and claims 2-7 which depend from claim 1, are allowable over this reference.

Further, applicant notes that the Brandenstein et al. does not provide any support for the Examiner's assertion that would have been obvious to one in the art to modify the size and/or the material from which the retention feature is formed so as to withstand the claimed force. In particular, Brandenstein et al. does not even recognize

that is would be advantageous to have a retention feature that can withstand a force greater than 6500 Newtons. Accordingly, because Examiner's assertion is completely unsupported, applicant submits that it is improper.

After carefully reviewing Brandenstein et al., applicant submits that the reference does not provide any teaching of a bearing pocket having a plurality of arcuate shaped members, as recited in independent claim 20. Accordingly, because Brandenstein et al. does not teach each every limitation of independent claim 20, applicant submits that claim 20 and claims 21-22 which depend from claim 20, are allowable over this reference.

Claims 1-7 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muraki et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0172443). Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1-7 and 20-22 based on Muraki et al. is improper.

Applicant concurs with the Examiner's assertion that: "Muraki et al. does not disclose the newly added limitation "wherein the retention feature can withstand the force greater than 6500 Newtons...", as recited in independent claim 1. See Final Office Action, page 7, lines 14-15. Accordingly, because Muraki et al. does not teach each every limitation of independent claim 1, applicant submits that claim 1 and claims 2-7 which depend from claim 1, are allowable over this reference.

Further, applicant notes that the Muraki et al. does not provide any support for the Examiner's assertion that would have been obvious to one in the art to modify the size and/or the material from which the retention feature is formed so as to withstand the claimed force. In particular, Muraki et al. does not even recognize that is would be advantageous to have a retention feature that can withstand a force greater than 6500 Newtons. Accordingly, because Examiner's assertion is completely unsupported, applicant submits that it is improper.

After carefully reviewing Muraki et al., applicant submits that the

reference does not provide any teaching of a bearing pocket having a plurality of arcuate shaped members, as recited in independent claim 20. Accordingly, because Muraki et al. does not teach each every limitation of independent claim 20, applicant submits that claim 20 and claims 21-22 which depend from claim 20, are allowable over this reference.

Claims 1-7 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Radocaj (U.S. Patent No. 6,941,651). Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1-7 and 20-22 based on Radocaj is improper.

Applicant concurs with the Examiner's assertion that: "Radocaj does not disclose the newly added limitation "wherein the retention feature can withstand the force greater than 6500 Newtons...", as recited in independent claim 1. See Final Office Action, page 8, lines 19-20. Accordingly, because Radocaj does not teach each every limitation of independent claim 1, applicant submits that claim 1 and claims 2-7 which depend from claim 1, are allowable over this reference.

Further, applicant notes that the Radocaj does not provide any support for the Examiner's assertion that would have been obvious to one in the art to modify the size and/or the material from which the retention feature is formed so as to withstand the claimed force. In particular, Radocaj does not even recognize that it would be advantageous to have a retention feature that can withstand a force greater than 6500 Newtons. Accordingly, because Examiner's assertion is completely unsupported, applicant submits that it is improper.

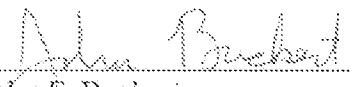
After carefully reviewing Radocaj, applicant submits that the reference does not provide any teaching of a bearing pocket having a plurality of arcuate shaped members, as recited in independent claim 20. Accordingly, because Radocaj does not teach each every limitation of independent claim 20, applicant submits that claim 20 and claims 21-22 which depend from claim 20, are allowable over this reference.

In view of the above amendments and the discussion relating thereto, it is

respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is most earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

If there are any charges due with respect to this Response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130, maintained by the applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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